

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIMARY RECORD OF THE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON  
DEFENCE SALES TO IRAN AND IRAQ: 24 FEBRUARY 1988

Attendance

W C Patey	MED	FCO
T M J Simmons	MED	FCO
A J H Cowell	MED	FCO
M C Carter	Defence Dept	FCO
A W B Barrett	DESS 2	MOD
Wg Cdr D L Baugh	D Cts Row 1	MOD
B T Burton	RMD 2 Iraq	MOD
M L Lloyd	RMD 2 Iran	MOD
J I Gallaher	OT4	DTI
A D Steadman	ELB	DTI
Anne Gray	ELB	DTI

NBP 07/2


GEC (Kelvin) Supply of Marine Diesel Engines:

Advice to Prime Minister

1. The FCO questioned the MOD's assessment in a letter from PS/MOD to PS/No 10 that the vessels for which these engines were intended were unsuitable for use in minelaying. The MOD maintained that these engines were unlikely to be used in vessels which would be engaged in minelaying activities. FCO then raised the question of whether the engines should be made licensable. OT4 (DTI) suggested that this question might best be considered in the context of a more general review of the role of political decisions in the ECGD process. OT4 undertook to look into this and report back to the IDC.

Export Licence Applications

2. ELAs were recommended for approval or refusal according to the attached list. Attention should be drawn to the following:

(i) Iraq - Browning 9mm pistols (Qty 2)

The IDC agreed that this equipment was clearly lethal and therefore prohibited under our embargo on lethal weaponry. However, MOD informed the IDC that, because the consignee was Saddam Hussein's son, they intended to draw this application to the attention of ministers. DTI and MOD were concerned that a refusal of this licence application would have unfortunate diplomatic consequences. FCO were grateful to MOD and DTI for alerting them to this, but suggested that, nevertheless, this equipment should be refused.

(ii) Iraq - Matrix Churchill Lathes  
- Matrix Churchill Machining Centre

The MOD recommended that the licence application for lathes should be approved (the machining centre application remains pending until the DTI provides further specifications). FCO pointed out that there was evidence to suggest that Matrix Churchill are involved in the supply of machine tools for munitions production. The IDC therefore agreed that these applications should remain pending until we have fuller information about the consignee.

ms working papers  
3. AWP's were recommended for approval or refusal according to the attached list.

Pending Export Licence Applications

4. Pending ELAs were recommended for approval or refusal according to the attached list. Attention should be drawn to the following item:

(i) Iraq - Long Range Surveillance Systems

Hawkeye systems applied for a revalidation of a licence to export this equipment which was last approved in 1986. According to the MOD, this equipment, essentially a long range ultra low light surveillance system, was outmoded. In addition, it was a passive defensive system. The IDC therefore recommended that this application should be approved.

Ballistic Jackets for Iraq

5. Special Control SVCS applied for a licence to export 1 Ballistic jacket for promotion purposes. This was considered by the IDC on 26 January 1988 and recommended for approval. Before visiting Iraq to promote this equipment the company now sought reassurance that approval would be granted for \$000. Given that this equipment was life-saving and non-lethal and would not represent a significant enhancement of Iraq's capability, the IDC agreed to bring the application to the attention of ministers at an early stage, and to recommend approval.

*A.J.H. Cowell*

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Middle East Department  
17 March 1988